

Sir,

In reply to your letter P.L. 4639 of 10th April, 1953, I am commanded by My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to inform you that My Lords are prepared to consider ex-Borstal boys in Northern Ireland for service in the Royal Navy and Royal Marines under the same terms as already approved for Great Britain.

2. My Lords accept your Departments assurance that the Borstal Authority will not recommend a candidate unless they have strong reason to believe that he will make good in the Navy.

3. Where there has been an interval between the date on which an applicant leaves a Borstal Institution and that on which he is considered for the Naval Service, he must produce satisfactory civilian references to cover this period. Men and boys may, however, be accepted direct from a Borstal Institution without being required to make good in civil life.

4. Boys should not be put forward for recruitment until a sufficient time has elapsed to show that, having regard to their behaviour and attainments subsequent to committal, they are likely to render entirely satisfactory service in the Royal Navy or Royal Marines.

5. In all cases, while full consideration will be given to the recommendations of the Borstal authority, the final acceptance of each entry must be subject to the approval of the Director of Naval Recruiting and I am to request that arrangements may be made for all recommendations to be forwarded to that Officer at the Admiralty, Queen Anne's Mansions, St. James's Park, S.W.1. Each recommendation must include a statement on the circumstances of the applicants committal with as full a report as possible on his rehabilitation.

6. Where a candidate who presents himself for entry at a Recruiting Office under the normal arrangements, is found on investigation of his history to have a Borstal record, the necessary enquiries of the appropriate authorities will be made by the Director of Naval Recruiting.

I am, Sir,  
Your obedient Servant,

(Sd) J. M. LUGGER.

The Secretary,  
Ministry of Home Affairs,  
Stormont,  
Belfast,  
Northern Ireland.